VZCZCXRO1221 OO RUEHBI RUEHCI DE RUEHKT #0534 1330337 ZNR UUUUU ZZH O 120337Z MAY 08 FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8478 INFO RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 6479 RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY 6795 RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA PRIORITY 2085 RUEHDL/AMEMBASSY DUBLIN PRIORITY 0007 RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 4831 RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 6046 RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 2411 RUEHSA/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY 0123 RUEHCI/AMCONSUL KOLKATA PRIORITY 4167 RUEHBI/AMCONSUL MUMBAI PRIORITY 3856 RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 2053 RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 3205 RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC PRIORITY RHMFIUU/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY

UNCLAS KATHMANDU 000534

SIPDIS

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PROCESS DELIVERED

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U.S. Concerns Shared with Defense Ministry

11. (U) On May 8, Emboff and Defense Liaison Officer presented reftel concerns about the potentially negative impact that the proposed Oslo process treaty language regarding a ban on cluster munitions would have. They noted the possible harm to cooperation between states that join the new convention and states that do not. Ministry of Defense Secretary Barad Prasad Neupane admitted he was not very familiar with the Oslo Process, but stated he would discuss the matter with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Foreign Ministry Awaiting New Government

12. (U) Emboff presented the same concerns later the same day to Ministry of Foreign Affairs Under Secretary for the United Nations, International Organizations and International Law Mani Bhattarai. Bhattarai was noncommittal regarding any Government of Nepal (GON) action, noting that until a new government was formed and a new Foreign Minister took office, the GON was unlikely to take any significant decisions. (Note: Foreign Minister Sahana Pradhan resigned on April 16 along with all other ministers from the Communist Party of Nepal - United Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML) after the party did poorly in the April 10 Constituent Assembly election. Prime Minister Koirala has not yet accepted the resignations, but Pradhan has not been going to the office or attending meetings. A new government may be named within the next month. End note.)

BERRY